

NELSON MANDELA

UNIVERSITY



Welcome Back Newsletter 2021

Institute for Coastal and Marine Research (CMR)

Welcome back to our CMR members! We trust that everyone enjoyed a safe and relaxing holiday, and that 2021 is off to a good start for all. Our thoughts remain with those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this newsletter, we congratulate CMR student members on their **graduation** during 2020! We also feature five CMR members who were honoured at the online **Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Awards** ceremony in December.

It is with heavy hearts that we bid **farewell** to **Dr Berny Snow**. Berny has been an integral part of shaping the CMR into what it is today: from being a student member in the 1990s, to leading it as Deputy Director in 2017, Acting Director in 2018, and then Director from 2019-2020. We congratulate her, and wish her all the best in her new position as **Deputy Director** for the **One Ocean Hub** at the University of Strathclyde (United Kingdom). We are so proud of Berny and all her accomplishments, and we thank her for all she has done for the CMR over these years. We look forward to continued engagements with her in a different capacity. Berny's personal **farewell message** is at the end of this newsletter.

We wish Professor Lorien Pichegru all the best in her position as **CMR Acting Director** from 1 February. She will be supported by **Deputy Directors Professor Janine Adams** and **Professor Pierre Pistorius**.

Let us remember the lessons that 2020 taught us, remain strong, and supportive of each other. Best wishes for 2021!

2020 Graduation

Well done to our CMR student members who, despite amended field work schedules, reduced hours in the laboratory and office and general unusual working arrangements, managed to complete their degrees and graduate in 2020! We congratulate you, your supervisors and mentors, families and support structures. We regret that none of you could be capped on stage, but we hope that all of you celebrated the occasion nonetheless.

CMR student members who graduated during 2020, include the following:

Bachelor of Science: Environmental Science

- Jade Vermeulen

Master of Arts: Development Studies

- Oyama Mkaza

Master of Laws: Public Law

- Adelaide Karomo

Master of Science: Geology

- Carla Dodd – *Cum Laude*

Doctor of Philosophy: Botany

- Marthinus Sonnekus

Doctor of Philosophy: Oceanography

- Dylan Bailey
- Kaylee Smit

Doctor of Philosophy: Zoology

- Diane Le Gouvello Du Timat
- Karien Bezuidenhout
- Nashima Festus
- Sibusisiwe Ngqualana
- Tegan Carpenter-Kling

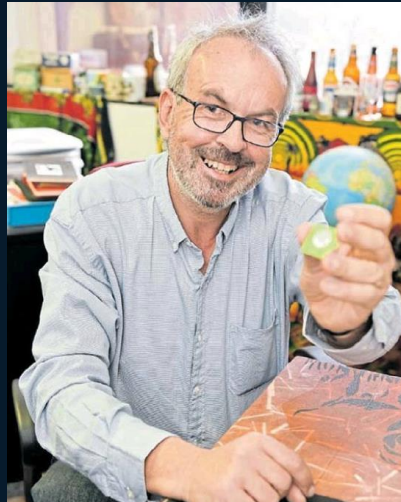
The CMR Office Team is proud of **Taryn Smit**, our Research Chairs Research Assistant, on graduating with a Masters degree in Zoology!

Awards

The annual **Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Awards** event took place virtually on Monday, 14 December 2020. This celebration recognises and showcases excellence in research, teaching, engagement, innovation, creative outputs, and institutional support. The CMR congratulates five of its members for being acknowledged for their excellence during this ceremony:



**Engagement
Excellence Award**
**Professor Andrea Hurst
and The Tributaries
Project**



**Engagement
Excellence Project
Award**
**Professor Jean Greyling
and the Tanks & Boats
Coding Project**



**Faculty of Law
Excellent Teacher
of the Year Award**
Ms Tanya Wagenaar



**Faculty of Science
Emerging Researcher
of the Year**
Dr Gavin Rishworth



**Research Excellence
Award**
**Professor Mandy
Lombard**

CMR Projects

We welcome Ms **Tara van der Westhuizen** to the CMR Office Team! Tara joined us as the CMR **Projects Administrator** on 1 January. Tara is tasked with managing CMR projects by ensuring reporting is done timeously and in the correct formats, assisting with project proposals, working with research teams, and supporting other CMR Office team members in all project-related matters. Tara and **Hannah Truter**, the CMR Office's **Project Data & Stakeholder Coordinator**, will also take care of the CMR's social media platforms.

For general information on projects coordinated by the CMR and links to dedicated project websites, please have a look at the **Research Projects** page on the **CMR website**:

<https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/Research-Projects>

Specific project **queries** may be directed to:
cmr@mandela.ac.za

On 1 February, the CMR Office welcomes **Mr Andy Radford** to the team as the **South African Programme Manager** for the **One Ocean Hub Project**. We also anticipate the arrival of **Dr Olivier Bousquet** in February to act as **Research Manager** under the **French Embassy** to work with the CMR on developing oceans climate change research.



Housekeeping

Research Publication Management System

The University's Research Office has updated this online system, which was rolled out in 2020, to be more user-friendly for **uploading publication outputs**. All CMR members who publish using the Nelson Mandela University and the CMR in their affiliations, are kindly asked to submit their 2020 outputs by the 28 February deadline. Please note that publications need to be uploaded only once.

Please use your official Nelson Mandela University **username** and **password**, with your **ORCID ID**, to gain access to this system. This online system can be accessed using this link: <http://webapps.nmmu.ac.za/rpms/>.

Please contact the CMR's **Office Manager** at Liza.Rishworth@mandela.ac.za if you require assistance with setting up a username. Liza can also share an **instruction manual** for this system.

Please contact Helpdesk@mandela.ac.za if you have a username but you have forgotten your **password**.

For general **queries** related to this system, or if additional assistance is required, please contact rpms@mandela.ac.za.

Affiliation & Branding

We kindly request that CMR members use the full **Institute for Coastal and Marine Research** title in all affiliations and addresses. This is particularly important for academic publications and representation at formal occasions.

A friendly reminder to CMR members to please make use of the CMR's updated and rebranded **logos**. These logos, as well as various branded templates, are available from the **Membership Information** page on the CMR's website: <https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/Membership-Information>

Social Media

For news on projects, activities and general updates, keep an eye on the CMR's **social media platforms**! Please feel free to share any of our posts, and let us know at cmr@mandela.ac.za if you have anything that you want us to share here.



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Berny's Farewell Message

I reflect upon my journey. It has been a long one. I arrived at UPE as a first year BSc student in 1990, where I met my future husband standing in a line to have our registration documents signed off by the Dean. It was on this journey that people influenced my decisions, mentored and supported or demanded better from me. I am eternally grateful to Professor Robertson, Professor Bate and Professor Adams (Janine) in particular. It was in my post-graduate years that I first got involved with CMR under the leadership of Professors Robertson and Bate. I was Professor Bates' research assistant. In 2007 I left as UPE was emerging as NMMU, to work at SAIAB and met great leaders and mentors, Dr Paterson (Angus) being one of them. The circles turned, and I found myself back at NMMU, started a PhD and graduated at Nelson Mandela University in 2018. I have been part of this University for 30 years! Without giving my age away, this is more than half the time I have been on this planet. Along the way I have met wonderful people who have taught me empathy, respect, resilience, kindness, work ethic, and have given me friendship. Every single person already mentioned with the addition of Professor Lombard (Mandy) will forever be carved in my heart and thanked.

There are many other people who I would like to acknowledge but I do not have enough space, so I will thank you personally. I need to reflect on CMR: Liza has given a brief history in the introduction, but I want to knowledge and express gratitude on what it has meant being part of such an amazing collective of researchers, disciplines, students and stakeholders. CMR gave me an outlet for my creativity and drive. I could share the vision for transdisciplinarity, could bring social and economics to the table, flex ideas about complexity, and manage an amazing team of people. I am very proud of what CMR has accomplished during my leadership and by no means was this an individual pursuit. Therefore, I need to thank the Management Committee and Advisory Board for supporting crazy ideas and despite telling me to slow down, letting me carry on. The Research Chairs are jewels in the CMR bank – take care of them.



To the international partners and friends, thank you. Kindness, support and collaborations such as what I have experienced, are priceless. Janine, your continued belief and mentorship, there are no words... Mandy, my friend, your ability to build confidence and unwavering support is beyond compare. Kwezi, you inspire and amaze me. Thank you for the support, both personally with guidance but also provided to CMR. Denise, thank you. Liza who has been beside me all the way, quietly letting me implement my crazy ideas – thank you for backing me. You have rare talents that did not go unnoticed. Hannah, thank you for always making a plan, creating amazing figures and finding out how to advance my technological prowess. I have not had much time with Ammaarah, Anne, Taryn and Tara but what I have experienced reassures me that CMR is in good hands. My advice is believe in yourselves and do not back down. Achieve your goals.

I find this hard as I know there are names not mentioned and I do not want to offend anyone (sorry, I rewrote this so many times). Thank you to my amazing students and post-docs – you all have taught me much. I look forward to you completing your degrees.

I want to thank CMR members for contributing, having ocean science at the core, and believing that together we can contribute meaningfully to the protection of the ocean and sustainability.

All the best to Lorien for stepping into the Directorship space. I hope it brings you as much joy as it has brought me.

Farewell but not goodbye as I step into researcher shoes and get to play with many of you in the coastal and ocean space.

Berny



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